



2017 AUGUST CALENDAR

OTTER RIVER & LAKE DENNISON Campgrounds

Park Interpreter: James

Park Phone Number: (978) 939-8962

All programs are free and open to the public. The daily parking fee is \$8.00 or \$15.00 per day, per vehicle.
 Parking fee is based on Massachusetts residency. Visit your local public library to obtain a day-pass with your library card.
 Reasonable accommodations available upon request. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
 For more information, visit www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-central/otter-river-state-forest.html

Sunday	Mon	Tue.	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Walk along the CCC Paths 2:30– 4 pm	4 Tyke Hike @ Lake Dennison 10 – 11 am Nature Center Open House: Microscopes 1:30 – 3 pm Welcome Walk @ Otter River 3:30 – 5 pm Nature Center Open House: Bird Sound Bingo 5:30 – 6:30 pm	5 What's That Tree?" @ Lake Dennison 10 –11:30am <u>Special Event: Celebrate Smokey Bear's Birthday</u> 1 pm Otter River Rover 4 – 5:30 pm Campfire Program @ Lake Dennison 7 – 8 pm
6 Kidleidoscope: Bats 9 – 10:20 am 'Days of Yore' Shore Tour 1 – 2:15 pm Nature Center Open House: Busy Beavers 3 – 4:30 pm	7 Healthy Heart Trail Walk 10 – 11am	8	9	10 Walk along the CCC Paths 2:30– 4 pm Campfire Program (with Special Guests) @ Otter River 7 – 8 pm	11	12 What's That Tree?" @ Lake Dennison 10 –11:30am <u>Special Event: Water & Boat Safety Talk with Army Corps of Engineers</u> 1– 2:15 pm Otter River Rover 4 – 5:30 pm Campfire Program @ Otter River 7 – 8 pm

13 Kidleidoscope: Birds of Prey 9 – 10:20 am ‘Days of Yore’ Shore Tour 1 – 2:15 pm Nature Center Open House: Owl Pellets 3 – 4:30 pm	14 Healthy Heart Trail Walk 10 – 11am	15	16	17 Walk along the CCC Paths 2:30– 4 pm	18 Tyke Hike @ Otter River 10 – 11 am Nature Center Open House: Microscopes 1:30 – 3 pm Welcome Walk @ Lake Dennison 3:30 – 5 pm Nature Center Open House: Bird Sound Bingo 5:30 – 6:30 pm	19 “What’s That Tree?” @ Lake Dennison 10 – 11:30am Special Event: The Different Hats of a Ranger with DCR Ranger Jason 2 – 3 pm Otter River Rover 4 – 5:30 pm Campfire Program @ Lake Dennison 7 – 8 pm
20 Kidleidoscope: Canines 9 – 10:20 am ‘Days of Yore’ Shore Tour 1 – 2:15 pm Nature Center Open House: Bear Safety 3 – 4:30 pm	21	22	23	24 Walk along the CCC Paths 2:30– 4 pm	25 Nat’l Park Service Bday Tyke Hike @ Lake Dennison 10 – 11 am Nature Center Open House: Microscopes 1:30 – 3 pm Welcome Walk @ Otter River 3:30 – 5 pm Nature Center Open House: Bird Sound Bingo 5:30 – 6:30 pm	26 “What’s That Tree?” @ Lake Dennison 10 – 11:30am Pond Adventures 1:30 – 3 pm Otter River Rover 4 – 5:30 pm Campfire Program @ Otter River 7 – 8 pm
27 Kidleidoscope: Animal Tracks 9 – 10:20 am ‘Days of Yore’ Shore Tour 1 – 2:15 pm Nature Center Open House: Food-Web Foragers 3 – 4:30 pm	28 Healthy Heart Trail Walk 10 – 11am	29	30	31 Walk along the CCC Paths 2:30– 4 pm		

OTTER RIVER NATURE CENTER

Nature Center Hours: FRI 1:30– 3:00pm 5:30 – 6:30pm SAT 1:30 – 3pm SUN 3:00 – 4:30pm	Join us at the Nature Center to EXPLORE many great activities in our State Forest. Get your bearings of the landscape by surveying a map of our trails and ponds. Examine wildlife furs & animal-track molds, or even see some pretty interesting rocks and minerals up close. Check out a critter skull or examine a bug. Or we have a huge library of nature books. Maybe you’d like to sit down with a great story book! Each day during Open House, we’ll look at a particular topic such as animal & bird-sounds; the food web, forestry, using microscope, and wildlife behavior. The
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Otter River Interpretive Center has something to see and do for all ages, including adults, so why don't you drop by and EXPLORE? *All children must be accompanied by an adult.*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Kidleidoscope Kids	This program is for young children, ages 3 - 8 (siblings welcome). Meet at the Otter River SF Craft Center located on Beaman Pond. Kidleidoscope is a fun activity on a weekly topic including a themed story, a short walk and creating a related craft. This program will enable very young children to get acquainted with the outdoors and all the fascinating things found there. All children must be accompanied by a parent or adult.
'Days of Yore' Shore Tour	Meet the Park Interpreter at the Lifeguard Towers on the Lake Dennison Day Beach for a leisurely walk through the Picnic Area & Day Beach. Find out about all the seasonal secrets that come to life each spring. From vernal pools to beaver dams, each week we'll explore the day-beach and see what's happening. We'll discuss some of the history of the park, former uses of Lake Dennison and discover old building foundations and other relics of the past. This is a moderately paced 2-mile walk suitable for all ages. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water, dress for the weather and bring bug repellent if desired. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Healthy Heart Trail Hike	Walking is part of a healthy lifestyle and what better place to hike than in a beautiful state forest. Mass Parks has developed nearly seventy designated "Healthy Heart Trails" that are the core of our park system and we hope you will make them part of your exercise routine. Our Wilder-McKenzie Trail is a designated Healthy-Heart-Trail and runs 1.2 miles each way. We will walk most of the trail and stop occasionally to discuss our surrounding environment. Make sure to wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes, bring water, and take sunscreen or insect repellent. Children must be accompanied by parent/guardian. Meet next to the Contact Station at Otter River.
Walk Along the CCC Paths	Meet the Park Interpreter at the Otter River Interpretive Center for this 90-minute walk that will explore the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps. During the 1930s the CCC created this park and its many features three generations ago. This will be a moderate walk, 2 miles in length, suitable for all ages interested in local history. Wear comfortable clothes, bring water. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Tyke Hike	This 60-minute walk is geared for children ages 2 and up, accompanied by a parent or adult. It will be an easy $\frac{3}{4}$ mile walk, looking at plants and animals each week, discovering new and interesting things in the park. Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes or boots. Bring water and insect repellent if desired. This program is not suitable for strollers. Alternates meeting LOCATION each Friday: Otter River SF Tyke Hike meets at the Interpretive Center -OR- Lake Dennison Tyke Hike meets at the Contact Station/Main Entrance.
Pond Adventures	Like to play in the water? Meet the Park Interpreter at the Beaman Pond Beach at Otter River State Forest and be prepared to get wet! Find out about the critters that live in the Beaman Pond, and learn how the web of life in this small pond connects to Otter River and the Miller's River watershed. Dress to get wet! Sandals or water-shoes recommended. Children must be accompanied by a parent or adult. All ages welcome!
Welcome Walk	After you settle into your campsite, get your bearings and discover our campground. Trees, birds, fish, frogs rocks, mammals and plants—this park has a lot to behold—and a long history of culture too. Join park Interpreter James for a guided walk of the campground's wildlife & history. Or ask him a question about firewood and local amenities. We'll cover 1.5 miles, so wear walking shoes and bring a water bottle Alternates LOCATION each Friday: Otter River walk meets @ the Interpretive Ctr -OR- Lake Dennison walk meets @ Main Entrance.

“What’s That Tree?”	Alternates LOCATION each Saturday: Otter River SF hike meets at the Interpretive Center -OR- Lake Dennison hike meets at the Contact Station/Main Entrance. Join your park interpreter for this 75 minute woodland hike and meet the trees, roots and plants that inhabit the forests of Otter River SF & Lake Dennison. Trees have different features which will help us identify their species. We’ll discuss forestry and the how trees make animal habitats too. This hike is suitable for all ages capable of a moderate 1.5 mile hike. Wear comfortable clothes, sturdy shoes, bring water & insect repellent. All children must be accompanied by a guardian.
Otter River Rover	Follow the Park Interpreter on a hike downstream and over the railroad tracks from Beaman Pond to Otter River. We’ll discuss the Miller’s River watershed, flood control at the Birch Hill Dam, and how these features affect the water-cycle. This is a moderate hike, approximately 2.5 miles in duration, on sandy and varied terrain. Bring a water bottle and comfortable walking shoes. Meet at the Otter River Interpretive Center
Campfire Program	Join the Park Interpreter for a welcome campfire. We’ll follow Ranger Smokey Bear’s five rules to building a safe campfire, and then we’ll tell stories, sing songs and stargaze. Please bring a flashlight, chair, and bug-spray. BYOM: bring-your-own-marshmallows. All children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. <u>Alternates LOCATIONS:</u> Meet at Otter River campsite #3 -OR- Meet at Lake Dennison North at the stage located near the grassy field at Group Campsite #1. SPECIAL Campfire, Thursday 8/10 at 7pm features members of the Student Conservation Association.
<u>Special Events:</u>	These Special Events occur a few times each season and feature a guest or expert speaker. As with all DCR events, these programs are FREE, and daily parking fees apply.
Celebrate Smokey Bear’s Birthday	Join us at the Interpretive Center for a FREE program for all ages. Come shake Smokey’s hand and wish him a happy 73 rd Birthday! We will enjoy a visit from Smokey Bear, who will educate us about fire-safety. Our local DCR firefighters will accompany Smokey Bear to entertain us with games, fire-facts and to teach us how “Only YOU can prevent forest fires.” Located near the Parking Lot of Otter River State Forest on Beaman Pond. Wheelchair accessible. Reasonable accommodations upon request. Children must be accompanied by a guardian.
Water & Boat Safety with the Army Corps of Engineers	Join us for a special program with guest Ranger Bill from the Army Corps of Engineers. We’ll discuss practical techniques and preparative skills for maintaining a safe boating & watersport experience. Meet at the Lake Dennison Day Beach on August 12th at 1pm. PLEASE NOTE: Attendees to this program will not be going in the water or out on boats. This is a demonstration program only, and all participants will remain on the shore at all times. All children must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.
The Different Hats of a Ranger (With DCR Ranger Jason)	Rangers in our Massachusetts State Parks wear a lot of different hats. Our DCR Rangers have many different roles, and each uniform distinguishes their role. From Mounted Horseback Rangers, to Guards at our Statehouse, to patrolling for rule compliance, we have many different types of Rangers. Meet DCR Ranger Jason, as he discusses his role in covering a vast territory of public land. Jay will provide us with a show-and-tell describing his hats & helmets, which provide us with a glimpse at the different responsibilities of a Ranger. Located at the Otter River SF Interpretive Center. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.